



COVID-19 3/29 UPDATE

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Globally

Total cases – 713,171

Total deaths – 33,597

In the United States

Total cases – 136,880

Total deaths – 2,409

Government

- President Trump took to **Twitter** Sunday afternoon to tout the ratings of his news conferences, claiming without evidence that mainstream media are going “CRAZY” because of his popularity on television.
 - “Because the ‘Ratings’ of my News Conferences etc. are so high, ‘Bachelor finale, Monday Night Football type numbers’ according to the @nytimes, the Lamestream Media is going CRAZY,” [Trump tweeted](#). “‘Trump is reaching too many people, we must stop him.’ said one lunatic. See you at 5:00 P.M.!”
- **President Donald Trump** and **Vice President Mike Pence** met on Sunday with supply chain executives to discuss the administration’s response to the coronavirus pandemic, the White House said.
 - Trump spoke about briefly about the 2,900-bed Covid-19 hospital facility being opened at the Javitz Center in Manhattan, one of five to be mounted in hard-hit New York City including four in the outer boroughs.
 - The president also discussed the ramp-up in U.S. ventilator production and praised companies that are retooling factories to produce respirators and protective masks.
- **President Trump** signs executive order delegating additional authority under the **Defense Production Act** aimed at expanding production of health and medical supplies including personal protective equipment and ventilators, according to White House statement.
 - Executive order delegates authority to cabinet secretaries to “guarantee loans by private institutions, make loans, make provision for purchases and commitments to purchase, and take additional actions” to produce the health-care supplies
- **President Donald Trump** said the U.S. is conducting about 100,000 tests a day for coronavirus after weeks of complaints from governors and health-care workers about a scarcity of tests.

- Trump told reporters at the White House on Friday that the U.S. is testing “more than anybody in the world.”
- Dow Jones [reports](#) that **the Trump administration** is preparing to suspend collection of import tariffs for three months to aid in economic relief from the coronavirus.
 - Companies would be liable for the tariffs at a later, undetermined date.
 - At the press conference later that day, **Trump** called this “fake news”
- **Republican Senator Susan Collins** on Saturday called on **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** to temporarily defer tariffs for U.S. companies that are suffering economic hardship because of the coronavirus outbreak and said duties on imports from China and the EU have been a particular concern for companies in her home state of Maine.
- **President Donald Trump** said he’s not putting **New York** and parts of **New Jersey** and **Connecticut** under quarantine to stop the spread of Covid-19 in those hard-hit areas but will issue a “strong travel advisory”
 - In an announcement on Twitter, Trump followed up on a suggestion he first raised on Saturday at the White House, but avoided the harshest outcome.
- The **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** released a statement about an hour later that urged residents in the tri-state area (New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey) to refrain from non-essential travel for 14 days, effective immediately. The advisory excludes Department of Homeland Security employees as well people working in “critical infrastructure industries, including but not limited to trucking, public health professionals, financial services, and food supply.”
- **Dr. Anthony Fauci** said Sunday that **President Donald Trump** decided not to impose a strict quarantine on [parts of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut](#) after officials had “very intensive discussions” at the White House with the President last night.
 - “After discussions with the President we made it clear and he agreed, it would be much better to do what’s called a strong advisory. The reason for that is you don’t want to get to the point that you’re enforcing things that would create a bigger difficulty, morale and otherwise, when you could probably accomplish the same goal,” Fauci told CNN’s Jake Tapper.
- **Some federal health experts advising President Donald Trump** on [the Covid-19 response](#) have submitted recommendations to the **White House coronavirus task force** -- guidelines that seek to reopen “some schools and businesses” in cities where infection rates are low, a senior federal health official directly involved in creating the guidelines told CNN.
 - The guidelines are only recommendations at this point, which would be considered by the task force then submitted for Trump’s approval. In recent days, the White House has said it would [review recommendations and announce new guidelines](#) early this week.
 - The official characterized the recommendations as a “middle-ground agreement” between “keeping the country shut down and [trying to reopen the entire thing](#).” The source would not reveal which lower-infection states might be included.
- **President Trump** while discussing **airlines** on Friday says it’s possible the U.S. will end up “owning large chunks” of companies, depending on what his advisers decide and also on company executives.
- **Donald Trump** said the **inspector general** who’ll oversee hundreds of billions in aid to curb economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic cannot tell Congress if the government stonewalls his office without the president’s approval.
 - In a statement issued Friday to accompany his signature on the bill, Trump said the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery, or SIGPR, cannot go to Congress if

refused information by agencies about loans and investments made by the Treasury secretary.

- Creation of the oversight post was a key concession by Senate Republicans during the bill's hasty development, sought by Democrats to ensure oversight over hundreds of billions of dollars in potential loans and spending.
- The inspector general will have the authority to seek information from government agencies, and report to congress any refusal of a reasonable request. Trump said in the statement that he won't let that happen without his approval.
- **Vice President Pence** said Saturday that in the coming week his coronavirus task force will bring its recommendations to President Trump on whether to ease social distancing requirements and reopen the U.S. economy.
 - Pence told Fox News's Jesse Watters that the task force was "following the data" on coronavirus infections in the country and would brief Trump accordingly
- **President Donald Trump** complained that two Democratic governors don't appreciate his administration's efforts to combat the coronavirus epidemic and said Vice President [Mike Pence](#) shouldn't take their calls.
 - "I want them to be appreciative. I don't want them to say things that aren't true," Trump said of the governors at a White House news conference Friday. "When they're not appreciative to me, they're not appreciative to the Army Corps. They're not appreciative of FEMA," he added, referring to the Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- **Army, Navy, Air Force and Homeland Security** secretaries are authorized to order troops and members of the Ready Reserve to active duty, under President Trump's executive order.
 - Order limits units to 1m members on active duty at any one time for up to 24 consecutive months
- **President Donald Trump** on Friday ordered **General Motors Co.** to make ventilators for coronavirus patients, invoking a federal law that gives him vast powers over industry in crises and acting as the company is within weeks of starting production on the equipment.
 - **Trump** said in a statement that he had signed a memorandum "directing the secretary of Health and Human Services to use any and all authority available under the Defense Production Act to require General Motors to accept, perform, and prioritize federal contracts for ventilators."
- **CISA** released updated guidance on identifying critical infrastructure workers – available [here](#)
- Later Friday, **Trump** appointed White House trade adviser **Peter Navarro** to coordinate actions under the DPA, and issued an executive order authorizing the government to "guarantee loans by private institutions, make loans, make provision for purchases and commitments to purchase, and take additional actions to create, maintain, protect, expand, and restore domestic industrial base capabilities to produce such resources."
 - He also authorized **Defense Secretary Mark Esper** to call up military reserves in a separate order.
- **President Donald Trump** traveled to Norfolk, Virginia, on Saturday to send off a U.S. naval hospital ship bound for New York, where it will relieve the city's health care system, at the breaking point from the coronavirus outbreak.
- **President Trump** on Saturday signed an executive order for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to "100 percent fund" emergency activities in response to covid-19 in Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and the U.S. territories Guam and Puerto Rico.

- The executive order applies to the deployment of the National Guard under state control. It refers to emergency measures “associated with preventing, mitigating, and responding to the threat to public health and safety posed by the virus.”
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** issued a health advisory on Saturday warning against use of non-pharmaceutical chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine.
 - “Clinicians should advise patients and the public that chloroquine, and the related compound hydroxychloroquine, should be used only under the supervision of a healthcare provider as prescribed medications,” the CDC said. While [President Trump has been endorsing](#) the promise of the antimalarials based on anecdotal reports, there is currently no FDA-approved prevention of covid-19, the agency reminded the public.
- **President Donald Trump** said two companies that he didn’t identify are responding favorably to the government’s demands for equipment to combat the coronavirus pandemic -- after they were threatened with a legal order.
 - Trump said he may invoke the Defense Production Act “maybe once or twice” more.
- The **Food and Drug Administration** told most employees to expect to continue working from home through at least May 1 to help contain the novel coronavirus, rejecting President Donald Trump’s goal of reopening the country by Easter.
 - “The health and well-being of our FDA family continues to be our focus as the Covid-19 pandemic evolves,” James Sigg, the agency’s chief operating officer, wrote Thursday in an e-mail obtained by Bloomberg.
 - The FDA’s timeframe doesn’t include employees who cannot perform mission-critical functions from home.
- The **Internal Revenue Service** sent an [email](#) to employees on Friday telling all who are eligible to telework starting Monday. IRS employees had been encouraged to telework but Friday’s move was characterized as a mandatory evacuation order.
- The **Pentagon’s logistics agency** has modified an existing contract and will spend \$84.4 million to buy 8,000 ventilators from four vendors, with delivery of an initial 1,400 by early May.
 - The companies tapped to make the devices are Zoll Medical Corp., Combat Medical Systems LLC, Hamilton Medical Inc., and VyAire Medical Inc., according to a Defense Logistics Agency spokesman.
 - “This will be a time-phased delivery over the next several months and we expect orders to begin shipment within the next few days” with delivery locations to be determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, spokesman Air Force Lt. Col. Mike Andrews said in a statement.
- **U.S. coronavirus deaths** could reach 200,000, top infectious disease expert **Anthony Fauci** said, calling the estimate a moving target. New Orleans could [run out](#) of breathing machines within a week.
- **Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin** said Americans could expect the checks from the stimulus bill to be direct deposited in their accounts within three weeks from Sunday.
 - He told reporters at the White House that for people who did not provide the government their direct deposit information, there will be a web-based application to get their money.
 - Mnuchin also told small businesses: “Go back and hire your workers because the government is paying you to do that.”
- **President Trump** signed an executive order Friday afternoon which could potentially lead to **former active duty military members** being recalled into service.

- This order grants the Defense Secretary the authority to order up members but as of now, there is no indication of anyone being called up.
- “Decisions about which individuals may be activated are still being reviewed. Generally, these members will be persons in headquarters units and persons with high demand medical capabilities whose call-up would not adversely affect their civilian communities,” Chief Pentagon Spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said in a statement.”
- “This is a dynamic situation, we do not currently have a projected number of expected activations, but the Department is now fully authorized to make activations as needed. We will provide updates as they become available,” Hoffman added.
- The **US naval base in Yokosuka, Japan**, has largely restricted movement for 48 hours starting Friday night local time after two sailors tested positive for the novel coronavirus, according to a statement.
 - Commanding officer Capt. Rich Jarrett announced a measure of a modified “shelter in place,” ceasing all non-essential services and limiting movement on and off the installation.
- **A federal judge in California has ordered the Trump administration** to “make every effort to promptly and safely release” thousands of migrant children from federal custody amid fears that the novel coronavirus could spread in the shelters and detention facilities where they are currently held.
 - U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee, who oversees a 1997 court agreement that sets basic standards for the detention of migrant children, issued a temporary restraining order Saturday that requires officials at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Office of Refugee Resettlement to explain by April 6 why they haven’t released the minors.
- The **Department of Health and Human Services’s** civil rights office urged health-care providers to not ration care for covid-19 patients based on disability or age.
- The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** approved its 34th state Medicaid waiver request under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act. Granting these waivers is made possible by the President’s national emergency declaration to ensure that CMS is providing state partners with the maximum flexibility needed to care for Medicaid beneficiaries during the coronavirus public health emergency. ([HERE](#))
- The **FDA** issued an [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) to allow for the emergency use in health care settings of certain ventilators, anesthesia gas machines modified for use as ventilators, and positive pressure breathing devices modified for use as ventilators (collectively referred to as “ventilators”), ventilator tubing connectors, and ventilator accessories that the FDA determines meet specified criteria for safety, performance and labeling. ([HERE](#))
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** Administrator Andrew Wheeler sent a [letter](#) to Governors in all 50 states, territories and Washington, D.C. urging them to ensure that drinking water and wastewater employees are considered essential workers by state authorities when enacting restrictions such as shelter in place orders to curb the spread of COVID-19. ([HERE](#))
- The **U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** made public, March 27, the COVID-19 Response Plan it is executing within its medical facilities to protect Veterans, their families and staff. VA deems the [plan](#) a valuable tool that’s useful for the nationwide medical community. ([HERE](#))

State/Local

- **Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee (D)** said Sunday that he would not lift his statewide stay-at-home order if Trump enacts his plan to [categorize places by risk levels for covid-19](#), the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.
 - “We need to make decisions based on science and reality,” Inslee told [CNN’s Jake Tapper](#).
- **Alaska** is the latest US state to order residents to stay at home unless absolutely necessary due to concerns about the spread of the coronavirus.
 - Limited outdoor activities are allowed as long as social distancing of 6 feet (1.8 meters) is maintained.
 - In a pair of new mandates announced Friday evening, state Health and Social Services Commissioner Adam Crum said Alaskans are also ordered to avoid travel between communities.
 - The prohibition on unnecessary travel goes into effect Saturday at 8 a.m. local time, while the new rule on staying at home goes into effect at 5 p.m. Crum says the mandates will be reconsidered no later than April 11.
- The **Arkansas** Department of Health is recommending all travelers from New York state and foreign countries to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- **Louisiana**, which has the fourth-highest U.S. coronavirus death total so far, anticipates running out of capacity for breathing machines in the city of New Orleans within a week.
 - “We’re on a trajectory right now where we’ll not be able to deliver the care that people need when they need it,” Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards said on CBS’s “Face the Nation.” Hospital bed space may run short by April 10.
 - In a separate interview, Bel Edwards said that the recent boisterous Mardi Gras celebration -- before the imposition of social distancing -- likely contributed to the rapid spread of Covid-19 in the state’s largest city.
- **Rhode Island Gov. Gina M. Raimondo** signed an order obtained by CNN saying she will demand all travelers coming into the state to self-quarantine for 14 days in hopes to stop the spread of coronavirus.
 - This comes after Raimondo previously targeted New York travelers, saying she would stop them from coming into the state.
- **New York Gov.** Andrew Cuomo told CNN he would sue **Rhode Island** if they did not roll back [a policy of stopping all cars with New York license plates](#), but that he expects the two states will be able to work it out amicably.
- **Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo** also issued a stay-at-home order state-wide on Saturday.
 - **Raimondo's** decision comes after she announced that only 50% of residents are complying to social distancing restrictions already in place. The governor said that half of the state’s population is gathering in parks, hosting and attending house parties and not complying to social distancing in grocery stores.
- **Los Angeles** could see a coronavirus surge similar to New York City’s in five days if the spread continues at the rate it’s been going, Mayor Eric Garcetti said.
 - “We will have doctors making excruciating decisions,” Garcetti said at a press briefing alongside Governor Gavin Newsom.
- **Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine** said his state does not have enough N95 masks to meet the demand of health care workers and first responders.
- **California** is temporarily closing vehicle access at its 280 state parks due to a surge in visitors on Saturday, according to a press release from the state department of Parks and Recreation.

- "On Saturday, many state parks once again experienced visitation surges that made it impossible for the public to implement appropriate social/physical distancing practices," according to the release.
- Motorists entering **Florida** will be directed to weigh stations by law enforcement officers who will allow travelers to either return to the interstate or to pull aside for further screening, according to a release from Florida Department of Transportation.
 - The measure is part of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis's order to limit community spread by requiring travelers on I-10 and I-95 coming from Louisiana, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to isolate for a period of 14 days.
 - Travelers entering **Florida** will be required to complete a form, including each traveler's contact information and trip details, the release said.
 - "Failure to complete the form and failure to follow any isolation or quarantine order from DOH are a violation of Florida law," according to the release.
- **Gov. Laura Kelly** has issued a stay at home order for the state **Kansas** beginning March 30 at 12:01 p.m. in order to contain the spread of Covid-19.
- In light of the coronavirus spread, **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** has moved the state's presidential primary election to June 23. The original date was April 28.
- **Gov. Andrew Cuomo** has extended the tax filing deadline in New York to July 15 due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- The **United Nations secretary general**, in coordination with the US ambassador to the UN Kelly Craft, will donate 250,000 protective face masks to medical facilities in **New York City**.
 - These masks located in UN stores in New York will be given to the medical professionals in the city "who have been working courageously, selflessly, and tirelessly in response to the spread of COVID-19 across the boroughs in the hope that they play some small role in saving lives," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said.
- The **White House** announced Saturday that President Trump has approved Michigan's request for a disaster declaration.
 - "Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Michigan and ordered federal assistance to supplement state, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected," the White House said in a statement.
 - This approval comes as Trump and Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer have exchanged attacks in recent days about the federal response to the coronavirus as well as the actions of both leaders.
- The top health official in **King County, Wash.**, an early epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak in the United States, on Saturday warned coronavirus patients and symptomatic people awaiting test results that they could be involuntarily detained if they violate orders to self-isolate.

International

- **Ireland** woke up to tighter restrictions on Saturday after the government imposed new curbs on movement in a bid to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.
 - Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said that the public should stay at home for the next two weeks in almost all circumstances.
 - The public was told that, as of this weekend, they should stay at home unless traveling for work that was deemed essential, shopping for food, attending medical appointments, providing care for family members, or "brief, individual" exercise that should take place within a 2-kilometer radius.

- **Portugal** will treat all foreigners with open applications to stay in the country as permanent residents to ensure migrant communities have access to vital public services during the coronavirus pandemic.
 - “People should not be deprived of their rights to health and public service just because their application has not yet been processed,” Claudia Veloso, a spokeswoman for the Ministry of Internal Affairs, [told Reuters](#). “In these exceptional times, the rights of migrants must be guaranteed.”
 - Under this policy, effective until July 1, applicants — including asylum seekers — in Portugal must prove they have a pending application to be eligible for welfare benefits, work and rental opportunities, bank accounts and health services, according to Reuters.
- **Greenland’s capital, Nuuk**, has banned the sale of alcohol after authorities noted a rise in domestic abuse since the government ordered people to stay home to stave off the coronavirus.
- **Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** said Saturday that he will be increasing travel restrictions in Canada for anyone showing symptoms of coronavirus.
 - As of Monday at noon, people showing any signs whatsoever of COVID 19 will be denied boarding on all domestic flights and intercity passenger trains," Trudeau announced.
 - Officials have encouraged people to stay home, especially if they are developing or have developed symptoms of the virus, Trudeau said.
 - **Trudeau** added that while Canadians have been largely respecting the travel restrictions, the additional restriction will help "formalize some of the domestic travel rules."
- **Nigeria’s capital city, Abuja**, and its commercial center, **Lagos**, are shutting down for two weeks in an effort to contain the coronavirus, the country’s president said during a televised address Sunday.
- **Russia** will temporarily close its borders, with some exceptions, beginning March 30, the Russian government announced.
 - An order posted Saturday on the website of the Russian Cabinet of Ministers temporarily suspends traffic through automobile, railway, pedestrian and border crossings with the Russian Federation. The order takes effect at midnight Moscow time on Sunday.
 - **Russia** previously closed entry to foreigners and halted most international flights. The order provides exceptions for Russian diplomats, Russian media representatives and other officials, as well as for transportation workers.
- **Moscow** imposed a citywide quarantine starting March 30 until further notice for all residents regardless of their age, Mayor Sergey Sobyanin said in a statement.
 - Residents will only be able to leave their houses to get urgent medical help, go to a nearby grocery store or pharmacy, and to walk their pets in the proximity of 100m from
- **Vietnam** has started closing non-essential services and restricting religious activities, parts of measures under a directive signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc that runs from Saturday until April 15.
- **Vietnam** will halt incoming passenger flights in the coming two weeks, according to a government report released on Sunday.
- **Italian schools** will remain closed beyond the initial April 3 deadline, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced from Rome on Saturday.
- **Italy** allocated \$4.8 billion (€4.3 billion) to provide food and medicine for victims of the economic crisis triggered by the coronavirus lockdown, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced from Rome Saturday.

- The **UK** public should prepare for a "significant period" where lockdown measures are in place to curb the spread of the coronavirus, Cabinet minister Michael Gove has said.
- **Mexican** health authorities intensified their call for Mexicans to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 by staying home until April 19.
 - Mexican deputy health secretary Hugo López-Gatell said on Saturday: "This can't be postponed, it is our last chance to do it and do it now... And this requires that we massively restrict ourselves and stay at home."
- **Australia** will limit gatherings to two people, among other new measures to fight the novel coronavirus, from Monday onwards, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said.
 - Gatherings will be limited to two people in public spaces and in other areas, down from a ceiling of 10 people implemented earlier, Morrison said at a press conference on Sunday.
 - All public outdoor areas, including playgrounds and skate parks, will also be closed.
 - Morrison said all residents "must stay home," except to shop for necessities, medical care, exercise, work or education. He urged people aged over 70 to stay at home and self-isolate.
 - He also announced a six-month moratorium on evictions.
- **Australia** announced a \$628 million (1.1 billion Australian dollar) package to fight the novel coronavirus, in a statement from prime minister Scott Morrison released on Sunday.
 - The majority of the package, about \$412 million, will go towards expanding Australia's telehealth services to allow more citizens to get healthcare over the phone.
 - There will also be another \$92 million to support citizens experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence.
- All travelers entering **South Korea** will be subjected to two weeks of mandatory quarantine starting midnight on Wednesday, April 1, Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun announced Sunday.
 - "The measure will also include short-term foreign visitors in order to practically block the entry for unimportant purposes, such as tourism," Chung said during a Central Disaster Relief headquarters meeting.
 - Those who don't have an address in the country will be quarantined in a government provided facility for two weeks at their own expense.
- **UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson** will write letters to households across the UK urging people to stay home, according to a Downing Street statement on Saturday.
 - The Prime Minister's letters will be sent to 30 million households next week and will say the following:
 - "We know things will get worse before they get better. But we are making the right preparations, and the more we all follow the rules, the fewer lives will be lost and the sooner life can return to normal. ...That is why, at this moment of national emergency, I urge you, please, to stay at home, protect the (National Health Service) and save lives."
- The **Shangri-La Dialogue**, a high-profile regional security forum held annually in Singapore, has been canceled due to the coronavirus outbreak.
 - The forum, usually attended by ministerial-level delegates and top defense officials globally, was scheduled to be held from June 5-7. This is the first time the event is being canceled since its inception in 2002
- In the **Australian** state of **Victoria**, police have been given power to issue on-the-spot fines of up to A\$1,652 (\$1,020) for individuals and A\$9,913 for businesses who don't follow rules on social distancing or limits on gatherings. Premier Dan Andrews said he wouldn't hesitate to close

beaches after police were forced to disperse hundreds of people sunbathing on Melbourne's St. Kilda beach on Friday.

Private Sector

- **Major League Baseball** players are willing to make major changes to the typical MLB schedule because of the coronavirus outbreak in order to play a 2020 season, according a statement from a MLB Players Association spokesperson and comments by MLBPA Executive Director Tony Clark.
 - The changes the players are willing to consider include playing later into the calendar year, an increase in double-headers, fewer restrictions on days off and expanded roster sizes to provide greater depth for a compressed schedule.
 - The MLBPA also says it is open to playing the regular season through October with postseason stretching into November.
 - The players are also open to the possibility of playing in empty stadiums, playing in neutral sites, and expanding the postseason structure.
- The **North American International Auto Show** said it's canceling the industry's biggest event scheduled in June and will resume the show in 2021.
 - The venue, TCF Center, will be repurposed as a field hospital for Covid-19 cases, the organizers said. The Detroit Auto Show will resume on June 11, 2021, with the public show scheduled for June 19-26.
- **Abbott Laboratories** is unveiling a coronavirus test that can tell if someone is infected in as little as 5 minutes, and is so small and portable it can be used in almost any health-care setting.
 - The medical-device maker plans to supply 50,000 tests a day starting April 1, said John Frels, vice president of research and development at Abbott Diagnostics. The molecular test looks for fragments of the coronavirus genome, which can be detected in as little as five minutes when it's present at high levels. A thorough search to definitively rule out an infection can take up to 13 minutes, he said.
- **Eli Lilly & Co.** said last week it was postponing new drug research and putting most ongoing clinical trials on hold.
- **Gilead Sciences Inc.** will expand access to its experimental anti-coronavirus drug remdesivir to accelerate its emergency use for multiple severely ill patients.
 - The drugmaker said it's switching to "expanded access" from a "compassionate use" program under which remdesivir was given to more than 1,000 Covid-19 patients.
- Democratic presidential front-runner [Joe Biden](#) said Friday he would urge governors nationwide to close down all non-essential activities in hopes of slowing the spread of the coronavirus.
- **Hyatt Hotels Corp.** will furlough or significantly reduce the schedules of two-thirds of its U.S. corporate employees as the company cuts costs with plunging hotel revenue.
 - The steps begin April 1 and continue through the end of May and affect employees in other regions, said a company spokesman. Hyatt will fund health insurance premiums for the workers, and employees who aren't sent home will take temporary pay cuts.
 - Hyatt Chief Executive Officer Mark Hoplamazian and Chairman Tom Pritzker aren't taking salaries, the spokesman said. The company's senior leadership team is taking a 50% pay cut.
- **Farmworker** advocates in the state of Washington are raising alarm over the pace of progress in shielding workers from the coronavirus, and say recent government guidance is so lenient it could actually make things worse.

- On March 19, a committee of both agricultural industry leaders and labor advocates sent Washington Governor [Jay Inslee](#) a list of recommendations to help protect staff, including state support in providing protective equipment, testing and temporary housing with enough distance between beds.
- The committee, which was established by a bill Inslee signed last May, told him it was urging “immediate action to address this crisis.” A week later, worker representatives who signed that letter say the governor hasn’t committed to do what’s needed.
- **Airlines** posted their first weekly gain since mid-February after winning tens of billions of dollars in government support in the U.S. stimulus package.
 - The new stimulus allocates \$50 billion in aid for passenger airlines, half in loans and half in cash assistance earmarked exclusively for payroll, benefits, health care and other employee costs. The aid package includes provisions that require airlines to provide the government with equity or other securities in exchange for the money.
- **Restaurants and retail shops** are seeing significant revenue losses as states across the country implement shelter-in-place orders, closures of nonessential businesses and encourage social distancing. Trade groups representing those sectors lobbied hard for financial assistance for their industries to be included in the stimulus package.
 - In the past three weeks, restaurants have lost \$25 billion in sales, which led to 3 million jobs being lost, according to Sean Kennedy of the National Restaurant Association, which represents thousands of restaurant owners and chains, including McDonald’s Corp. and Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. He said 3% of operators have “permanently closed their doors and given their keys to the banks” and 11% say they may have to follow suit in the next 30 days
- The **U.S. Travel Association**, which represents transportation, local attraction sites, tourism bureaus and other parts of the industry, hailed the relief package’s loans and grants for small business, tax changes, and money for airports and tourism businesses.
 - “Our industry stayed together and presented hard facts to make the case for massive and urgent relief, and our political leaders heard us,” the group’s president, Roger Dow, said Wednesday.
- The **American Hotel & Lodging Association** criticized the cap on small business loans at 250% of monthly payroll, after seeking 400% of monthly operating costs. Association President Chip Rogers urged fixes in coming weeks
- The **casino industry** sees the bill’s loan guarantee and tax provisions as “essential to help businesses and employees weather and manage the long-term effects of this crisis,” the American Gaming Association said in a letter to lawmakers.
- A **trade group for the movie theater industry** praised federal relief efforts, saying they would provide a vital lifeline to cinemas that have been forced to close to stem the spread of Covid-19.
 - Patrick Corcoran, a spokesman for the National Association of Theatre Owners, said Thursday the lobbying group is pleased with the provisions it got from lawmakers. He emphasized the industry isn’t pushing to reopen any earlier than health officials suggest, despite being hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic
- **Small businesses**, which employ almost half of the U.S. private workforce, have been hard hit by lockdowns across the country and many need fast assistance to stay afloat while their companies are shuttered. But the system set to distribute the funds is [already overwhelmed](#).
- The government agency that will oversee the program, **the Small Business Administration**, has been challenged to even maintain a much smaller, existing program, with its website crashing repeatedly under the surging demand.

- The biggest relief for the banking sector in the bill was for **community banks**, whose capital requirements were cut temporarily to give them more room to lend. The biggest banks already have excess capital they can tap to expand lending by \$1.6 trillion, which would increase their balance sheets by 16%.
 - JPMorgan Chase & Co., Bank of America Corp. and the six other banks considered systemically important have suspended share buybacks voluntarily to conserve capital, saying they will use their strength to help companies and consumers dealing with the economic fallout.
- Ride-hailing company **Uber Technologies** Inc. and home-sharing company **Airbnb** Inc. [lobbied](#) Congress to extend unemployment benefits to independent contractors and sole proprietors as part of the bailout bill, in an attempt to provide relief to those who rely on their platforms for income but aren't traditional employees. Workers such as Uber drivers don't receive benefits from the companies themselves.
- An **advertising technology trade group** representing **Facebook** Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s **Google** is asking the **California attorney general** to delay enforcement of the nation's toughest privacy statute so they can focus on the novel coronavirus pandemic.
 - "It's appropriate to cease enforcement until next year because of the very limited time for companies to come into compliance and the virtually unprecedented disruption caused by the current global COVID-19 pandemic," said Dan Jaffe, vice president of government relations at the Association of National Advertisers, in a statement.
- **Delta Air Lines** announced Friday it would fly medical workers without charge to parts of the country where coronavirus infections are spreading rapidly.

Appearing at a White House briefing on the coronavirus, executives with **Panera Bread** and **McLane Global** said they will assist families who are having trouble picking up meals offered by their districts.